

## MINUTES

November 18, 2008  
The Regular Meeting of the Satsuma City Council

The City Council of the City of Satsuma, Alabama, convened in the regular public session at City Hall in said city at 7:15 p.m. the 18th day of November, 2008.

The invocation was given by Councilmember Jackson

On roll call, the following answered present:

|                 |                    |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| Mayor           | William F. Stewart |
| Council Members | Billy Jackson      |
|                 | Pamela B. O’Gwynn  |
|                 | Pratt Monk         |
|                 | Tom Williams       |
|                 | Bill Black         |

Vicki Miller, City Clerk, Jay Minus, City Attorney and Tom Briand, Building Inspector, James Elmore, Public Works Supervisor, and Lt. Jana Dukes, Police Department were present. A quorum was present and Mayor Stewart opened the meeting for the transaction of business.

A pre-council meeting was held prior to the regular meeting to discuss issues coming before Council.

Mayor Stewart presented the minutes of the organizational meeting of November 3, 2008 for approval. Councilmember Monk made a motion to adopt the minutes as presented. Councilmember O’Gwynn seconded the motion and it carried.

Mayor Stewart presented the minutes of the regular meeting of November 3, 2008 for approval. Councilmember Monk made a motion to adopt the minutes as presented. Councilmember Jackson seconded the motion and it carried.

## VISITORS

Mayor Stewart presented the key kids with pens and certificates.

Council recessed at 7:15

Council reconvened at 7:20

Mayor Stewart stated that George Litaker is on the agenda requesting a home based business; however, Mr. Litaker is not present.

## REPORT OF THE MAYOR

Mayor Stewart reported that several months back, the city received a sidewalk grant. Originally, the grant was to go to Wright Park, however later the city received another grant for sidewalks to continue to Steele Creek. This changed the location of the sidewalk from Highway 43 to Old Highway 43. This in turn changed the amount of sidewalk over Steele Creek at H.P. Cain Bridge from 100' to 300'. This placed an additional cost for a walkway over the creek. The City was allotted approximately \$60,000 in the grant for the bridge; however, this is not enough to cover the additional footage. Mayor Stewart stated that the city could let the contractor move forward with pilings and streamers, which would be an additional \$10,000 for the city and then the public works department can finish the project or the city can not do the bridge and let the monies go back the ALDOT. Council discussed the matter.

Councilmember Black made a motion for a \$10,000 change order to Peavy Construction for construction of pilings and streamers for the walking bridge over Steele Creek. Councilmember Jackson seconded the motion and it carried.

Mayor Stewart stated that the previous Mayor and Council agreed to purchase property at the northeast quarter of section 14 from Virginia Station LLC. The period that was established will expire and the council needs to make a decision whether or not to proceed. He stated he believes that continuing with the purchase will be a wise decision. He stated that if the property is sold and not brought into the city, then depending on what type of development, the land values surrounding the property could be affected. Councilmember Monk stated that it would be a good investment. Councilmember O'Gwynn stated that the purchase will give the city control over the property. Council agreed to continue with the purchase and Mayor Stewart instructed Jay Minus to communicate this with the owners extending the time needed to get funding and moving the closing date.

Bubba Hamblin stood and asked if the property will be designated for ball fields. Councilmember Williams stated the previous Council made the decision not to designate the property as park property. Mayor Stewart stated that the property will not be designated as park property.

Mayor Stewart announced that he has received a letter from Congressman Jo Bonner and he proceeded to read the letter. The letter stated that the city will receive a \$1,215,493,000 grant through the Department of Homeland Security and the Hazard Mitigations Grant Program for a community safe house. The safe house will be for housing those individuals that are incapable of leaving the area during a hurricane and for 1<sup>st</sup> responders. The building will also have the dual use as a senior center. Mayor Stewart thanked the previous Council and Cara Stallman for helping to achieve this for the city.

## **REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEES**

Councilmember Jackson reported that the city has been contacted by the Mobile Sharks about an interest in moving the football league to the City. They are interested in being a part of a community.. The owner has worked out an agreement with Satsuma High School and would like the city to purchase advertising for \$3500.00. Councilmember Jackson stated that of the \$3500.00, \$2500 will go back to the school for the use of the stadium. Council discussed the matter.

Councilmember Jackson then made a motion for the city to purchase advertising to the newly named Satsuma Sharks for \$3500.00. Councilmember Monk seconded the motion and it carried.

Councilmember O'Gwynn stated that the city has a CD with Colonial Bank that will mature on November 28, 2008 for \$152,435.56. She stated that the city will need these funds and her recommendation is to place the funds back at Regions in the Alabama Trust account.

Councilmember Monk made a motion not to renew the CD and deposit the funds into the Alabama Trust Fund Account at Regions Bank. Councilmember Black seconded the motion and it carried.

Councilmember Monk stated that bids were requested by the previous Council for a concrete slab at the trash ramp. He stated that three bids were received:

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|----|-----------------|-----------|
| 1. | Frank Wilson    | \$9500.00 |
| 2. | RSI- John Cain  | \$5000.00 |
| 3. | James E. Taylor | \$7085.88 |

Councilmember Monk made a motion to accept the bids and turn over to the municipal services committee for review and tabulation. Councilmember O'Gwynn seconded the motion and it carried.

Councilmember Monk reported that the senior citizens group will be having their Thanksgiving dinner on November 20 at 12:00 at Steele Creek Lodge.

Councilmember Monk stated that the Council has decided to give the honor of grand marshal of the Christmas parade to Earline McKinley. He stated that Ms. McKinley was a previous city clerk.

Councilmember Monk expressed condolences on behalf of the Mayor and Council to the families of: Pete Cleveland, Pete Lee; John Seller, Noland Maples; Joe Stanley and Hollis Shoemake.

Councilmember Williams reported that the police department has received \$4000 from a drug seizure and would like to use the funds along with \$1000 from city funds to purchase a camera for a police cruiser. He stated that this is the only cruiser not to have a camera.

Councilmember Williams reported that the fire department is working toward lowering the I.S.O rating by going to county dispatch. He stated that by going to county dispatch, the fire department will receive an emergency call first and the caller will have the trained personnel on the line to help them. He stated that the citizens will need to be retrained to call 911.

Councilmember Williams stated that with the loss of two officers, he would like to call for a certification list for replacements.

Councilmember Black reported that an employee of the public works department is in line for a promotion to Equipment Operator II. He stated that the employee operates a backhoe.

Councilmember Black made a motion to open the position of Equipment Operator II. Councilmember Monk seconded the motion and it carried.

## **AGENDA**

1- Open bids for concrete slab at treatment plant.

Handled during committee reports.

2- Motion to adopt FY2009 budget

Mayor Stewart stated that the budget was prepared by the previous council and the discussion of this council has been to approve as presented and make any needed changes later.

Councilmember O'Gwynn made a motion to adopt the FY2009 Budget as presented. Councilmember Black seconded the motion and it carried.

3- Discontinuance of garbage-283 Orange Avenue-house vacant.

Councilmember Monk made a motion to approve the discontinuance of garbage on 283 Orange Avenue. Councilmember Jackson seconded the motion and it carried.

4- Resignation of Police Officer Donnie Merren

Councilmember Williams made a motion to accept the resignation of Donnie Merren not in good standing due to a pending disciplinary action. Councilmember Jackson seconded the motion and it carried.

5- Resignation of Police Officer Bart Andrews

Councilmember Williams made a motion to accept the resignation of Bart Andrews not in good standing due to a pending disciplinary action. Councilmember Jackson seconded the motion and it carried.

6- Motion to hire Andrew John Lee as Police Officer I

Councilmember Black made a motion to hire Andrew J. Lee as a police officer I. Councilmember Williams seconded the motion and it carried.

7- Motion to hire Rene Lindquist as Dispatcher/Jailer I

Councilmember Williams stated that Ms. Lindquist has been working as a provisional appointment and recommends the hiring of her as a permanent employee.

Councilmember Williams made a motion to hire Rene Lindquist as a Dispatcher/Jailer I. Councilmember Monk seconded the motion and it carried.

8- Appointment of Randy Jordan as Reserve Officer- Police Department

Councilmember Williams made a motion to appoint Randy Jordan as a reserve officer in the police department. Councilmember Jackson seconded the motion and it carried.

Councilmember Williams stated that the only cost for a reserve officer is the cost of the uniform.

9- Appointment of Grand Marshall- Christmas Parade

Handled in the committee reports

10- Announcement of Shelter/Safe house grant

Handled in the Mayor's report

11- Introduction of Ordinance 439- Increase in gas tax collected by the city.

Mayor Stewart commented that there has not been an increase in the gas tax in 7 years. He stated that increase is necessary to continue to provide police, fire, and maintenance of our roads.

Mayor Stewart stated that the city is now collecting 3 cents on both gasoline and diesel. He stated that the increase is an additional 2 cents on gasoline and 3 cents on diesel. He then opened up the discussion up for Council.

Councilmember O'Gwynn stated that stated that we are currently 1 cent under Saraland and Creola.

Councilmember Monk stated that with the budget that was inherited, the increase will provide for the needed revenue.

Councilmember Jackson commented on why the difference in the increase for gasoline and diesel. Mayor Stewart stated that most of the diesel fuel is purchased from people passing through the city and this increase will not affect our local residents as much.

Councilmember Williams stated that there has been an increase in police and fire calls and in order to maintain the level of service that the citizens are accustomed and to prepare for future growth, the city has to have an increase in revenues.

With no further discussion, Councilmember O’Gwynn made a motion to introduce ORDINANCE 439, AN ORDINANCE INCREASING THE GASOLINE TAX TO 5 CENTS PER GALLON AND DIESEL FUEL TO 6 CENTS PER GALLON. Councilmember Jackson seconded the motion and it carried.

Mayor Stewart presented the bills for payment. Councilmember Black made a motion to approve the bills as presented. Councilmember Williams seconded the motion and it carried except for Councilmember Monk who abstained due to a bill being on the list from a family member.

With no further business to discuss, Councilmember Monk made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember O’Gwynn seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:04 P.M.

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Mayor Stewart

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Councilmember Jackson

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Councilmember O’Gwynn

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Councilmember Monk

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Councilmember Williams

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Councilmember Black

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk